

November 2003

ABL balloon visits middle school



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On Oct. 3, the Airborne Laser (ABL) program showed students at Van Buren Middle School that its focus is not restricted to the demanding task of building the world's first laser-armed combat aircraft. Volunteers from the Airborne Laser System Program Office at Kirtland Air Force Base and community balloon aficionados visited the school, not far from Kirtland's Gibson gate, to inflate two balloons, which represented ABL during the ongoing Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. School children, many of them children of Kirtland Air Force Base parents, turned out to inspect the balloons at close quarters and chat with the pilots and crewmembers. (Air Force photos)